REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks.

Claim 1 has been amended to specify that the claimed polyolefin resin molding composite comprises a surface layer, a foam layer and a base member. Claim 1 has been further amended to specify that the base member is fusion bonded directly to the foam layer. Support is found in the specification for example on page 15, lines 2-10. See also page 15, line 11 to page 17, line 12 and Figures 2-4.

New claim 10 has been added for additional patent protection. See page 13, lines 17-21.

Turning to the Official Action, there is a single ground of rejection. Claims 1, 3, 5 and 6 are rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Ito in view of JP '359. This ground of rejection is respectfully traversed as applied to the claims after the foregoing amendments.

The Examiner relies on Fig. 17 of Ito (U.S. 5,476,618) and indicates that the skin layer 105 is directly bonded to the layer of expanded bead resin foam 103. However, in Fig. 17 of Ito, on the side opposite the side of the skin layer 105 bonded to the foam layer 103, the base layer 102 is bonded via a first layer of thermally adhesive resin 104A, and, therefore, the base layer 102 is not directly bonded to the foam layer 103. It should be noted that the embodiment of Fig. 17 corresponds to the embodiment covered by Claim 8, and "a first layer of thermally adhesive resin 104A" corresponds to the feature of "a thermoplastic resin sheet of a second resin material" recited in Claim 8.

On the other hand, in Claim 1 of Ito, a second resin layer is interposed between the skin layer and the foam layer, namely, the skin layer and the foam layer are not directly bonded together.

As discussed above, Ito does not disclose the claimed composite in which the skin layer and the foam layer are directly fused together, and also the foam layer and the base layer are directly fused together. Nor does the reference JP '359 disclose this structure.

Consequently, the invention of the amended Claim 1 is clearly distinguished from the invention of Ito. Even if Ito is combined with JP '359, such a combination would not arrive at a

molded composite of the claimed invention having the structure wherein the skin layer and the foam layer are directly fused, and also the foam layer and the base layer are directly fused.

Ito reference does not disclose all of the essential elements of amended Claim 1. Further, Ito does not suggest the claimed composite in which the skin layer and the foam layer and the base layer are, respectively, directly fused.

In the case of the composite of Ito, according to Claim 1, the foamed bead base and the first resin layer are integrally bonded via the second resin layer, and according to Claim 8, the foamed layer and the resin member are integrally bonded via the thermoplastic resin sheet. It seems that the second resin layer or the thermoplastic resin sheet is integrally bonded to the first resin layer or the resin member in advance as shown in Fig. 3 or Fig. 17, or each is laid over the first resin layer or the resin member as shown in Fig. 13 and Fig. 14, and subsequently subjected to aging, thereby to be integrally bonded with the first resin layer or the resin member. Thereafter, filling of the foam beads is carried out. With the structured composite, it is required that the second resin layer or the thermoplastic resin sheet should be formed, before filling the foam beads, to cover the first resin layer or the resin member, and, in addition, to have form as one of the surfaces of the first resin layer or the resin member (namely a surface to be laminated), thereby to be integrally formed. In other words, with the composite of Ito, it requires troublesome work to form even the second resin layer or the thermoplastic resin sheet in a complicated form. This troublesome work also increases the rate of rejects.

To the contrary, the composite of the claimed invention uses the foam particles having the coat as recited in amended Claim 1, and, therefore, the second resin layer or the thermoplastic resin sheet is not required. Thus, the present invention eliminates troublesome work required to make the reference composite.

As a result, with the composite of the present invention, the rate of rejects is also decreased. Further, by using the foam particles having the coat according to this invention, the obtained composite has characteristic features of a high bonding strength between the foam layer and between the surface layer, and between the foam layer and the base member, and also a high

bonding strength between the particles in the foam layer, even when the heating temperature is lowered.

JP '359 discloses the expanded resin particles recited in Claim 1 of the present application, but the teaching of expanded resin particles in JP '359 is confined to such extent that the expanded resin particles can be formed at a temperature which is lower than the conventionally used temperature, and integrally forming the foam layer with the surface layer or the base member is not disclosed or suggested in this reference.

In summary, it is respectfully submitted that the combined teachings of the cited references fail to suggest the invention according to the amended claims.

Favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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